

## IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

*When strangers reside with you in your land, you shall not wrong them. The sojourners who reside with you shall be to you as your citizens; you shall love each one as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. – Leviticus 19:33-34*

**Vision Statement:** All people have a right to be safe and to thrive in our state, regardless of immigration status or documentation. Our tradition teaches that it is our responsibility to welcome migrants. Jews have had to flee in order to save our lives and the lives of our children many times in our history, and have been seen as foreigners in the places we have called home for centuries. We understand what drives migrants to come here, and the consequences of being targeted as outsiders and feeling unsafe in our own communities. We must end state government collaboration with ICE, prevent the use of private immigration detention centers, and protect the private data of undocumented Marylanders.

**Legislative Goals for 2020:** Override Governor Hogan's veto of the expansion of the Maryland Dream Act, pass the Maryland Trust Act (HB388 or SB901), protect privacy for undocumented people (HB892/SB649), and end Maryland's participation in the cruel system of immigration detention centers (HB677/SB850).

## PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

*Whoever withholds an employee's wage, it is as though he has taken the person's life from her. – Babylonian Talmud, Bava Metzia 112a*

**Vision Statement:** Nobody should have to choose between their job and caring for their family. Nearly everyone needs time away from work at some point to care for a relative, deal with a serious personal illness, or welcome a baby, but many Marylanders can't afford to take unpaid leave. Rabbi Hillel teaches us that we can't separate ourselves from our community; we all have a responsibility for each other's wellbeing and care. We must make sure that all people can take time to be with their families and attend to their own health.

**Legislative Goal for 2020:** Pass the Time to Care Act (HB839/SB539) to provide replacement income to people who need to take up to 12 weeks off from work to take care of themselves or their families.

## POLICE REFORM

*Put judges and officers for yourself in all your cities that your God is giving you, for your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteousness. You shall not subvert justice; you shall not show favoritism...justice, justice shall you pursue... – Deuteronomy 16:18-20*

**Vision Statement:** Law enforcement should serve and protect everyone, but Black and brown Marylanders are facing systemic violence and over-policing every day. Jewish tradition teaches us that destroying one life is akin to destroying the entire world. Police violence has destroyed so many worlds in our state, and Maryland laws prevent the public from even finding out about officers' mistreatment of people. We must be able to hold police accountable to the people and communities they hurt.

**Legislative Goal for 2020:** Pass Anton's Law (HB1090), a broad policing reform bill that will amend the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) to allow for police disciplinary records to be released to the public.

## REAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Vision Statement:** JUFJ is guided by the Jewish value of *Tzelem Elohim*, that all people are created in the divine image, with inherent and equal dignity and value.

All people should be treated with dignity and respect, whether they have been incarcerated or not. People who have been incarcerated face marginalization, perpetual punishment, and barriers to housing and employment, especially Black and brown people who are unjustly targeted because of their race. We need to prevent unjust incarceration and support Marylanders to successfully return from incarceration into the rest of society.

**Legislative Goal for 2020:** Establish a women's pre-release facility in Maryland (HB608/SB682, HB828/SB683, and HB801/SB684), prohibit interrogations of minors without guardians or lawyers present (HB624/SB593), ensure voting rights for incarcerated voters (HB568/SB372), and provide compensation for victims of wrongful conviction (HB985/SB797).

*"When you set [a person] free, do not let them go empty-handed: Furnish them out of the flock, threshing floor, and vat, with which your God has blessed you. Bear in mind that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and your God redeemed you; therefore I enjoin this commandment upon you today." – Deuteronomy 15:12-15*

## ADDITIONAL ISSUES ON OUR AGENDA

**Defend Sick Leave:** The 2017 earned sick and safe leave bill covers 700,000 working people in Maryland. Nobody should be cut out of the law or punished for taking leave. **We oppose** SB241, HB908/SB404, and HB1021/SB906.

**Fair Taxes for All:** Maryland doesn't have enough money to fully fund the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission. Many wealthy corporations and individuals pay little to no state income taxes, leaving low- and middle-income families to foot the bill. The richest Marylanders should pay their fair share. **We support** HB222, HB223, HB256, HB295, HB439/SB216, HB473, HB507, and SB311.

**No Mandatory Minimum Sentences:** Governor Hogan wants to pass new mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for gun offenses. This would disproportionately target young people of color, trapping them in a criminal justice system that destroys lives and does not make our communities safer. **We oppose** HB356/SB273.

**Prescription Drug Affordability:** Skyrocketing prescription drug prices are making medicine inaccessible for everyone but very wealthy Marylanders. The Prescription Drug Affordability Board requires funding. **We support** HB1095/SB669.

**Reform Solitary Confinement:** Solitary confinement ("restrictive housing") is a form of physical and psychological torture that is used in Maryland more than in any other state. We must continue limiting its use in our state. **We support** HB740/SB999 and HB742/SB1002.

**Renters' Rights:** All people have a right to live in safe and stable housing. Tenants should have a fair chance in the Rent Court system to resolve financial, maintenance, and safety issues; and we should prevent housing discrimination and reduce unjust evictions. **We support** HB231/SB530, HB491, HB768, HB797/SB544, and HB1372.

*In addition to our four priority issues for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly, JUFJ is supporting additional issues that reflect our values and are important to our allies.*

*JUFJ brings together Jews from across Maryland to act on our shared Jewish values by pursuing social and economic justice and racial equity in our local communities. Learn more at [jufj.org](http://jufj.org).*

Baltimore Director, Molly Amster: [molly@jufj.org](mailto:molly@jufj.org), 301-529-3875 (mobile).  
Montgomery County Senior Organizer, Laura Wallace: [laura@jufj.org](mailto:laura@jufj.org).

**JEWES UNITED  
FOR JUSTICE**  
**THINK JEWISHLY. ACT LOCALLY.**